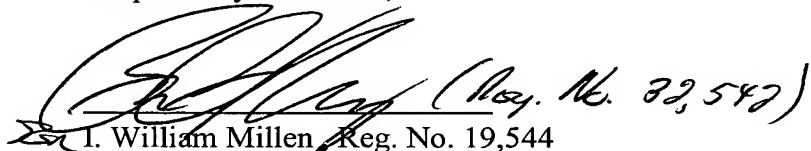


REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to eliminate multiple dependent claims in order to avoid the additional fee. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce claims to canceled combined subject matter.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "**Version With Markings to Show Changes Made**".

Respectfully submitted,



(Reg. No. 19,544)

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 4, 5, 7, 9 and 10 were amended as follows:

4. (Amended) Process according to ~~one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein the reaction is conducted in atmospheric pressure.
5. (Amended) Process according to ~~one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 4~~, wherein the reaction is conducted at a temperature of
-20 to 40°C.
7. (Amended) Process according to ~~one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 6~~, wherein the reaction is conducted at a pH from 7 to 9.
9. (Amended) Process according to ~~one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 8~~, wherein the reaction is conducted with an HCN/methyl ethyl ketone molar ratio of between 0.90 and 1.10, in particular between 0.95 and 1.05.
10. (Amended) Process according to ~~one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 9~~, wherein the reaction is conducted for a period of 1 to 4 hours, in particular from 1 to 2 hours.